



PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

CR-101 (June 2004)

(Implements RCW 34.05.310)

Do NOT use for expedited rule making

Agency: Dept. of Agriculture

Subject of possible rule making: Chapter 16-350 WAC. Registration and Certification of Fruit Tree Planting Stock. The department is considering adopting changes to the fruit tree planting stock rule to recognize the Clean Plant Center Northwest as the primary foundation source for the program, to align program terminology with that of the National Clean Plant Network Fruit Tree State Level Model Regulatory Standard, to modify the eligibility requirements for registered *Prunus* trees, and to clarify eligibility requirements for imported propagation material.

Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject: RCW 15.14.015, and chapter 34.05 RCW

Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish: The National Clean Plant Network (NCPN) was created in 2008 to protect specialty crops from the spread of economically harmful, graft-transmissible plant viruses and pathogens. Its mission is to maintain foundation planting stock (G1) at clean plant centers around the US and to provide this virus-tested stock to nursery growers. Virus and disease free planting stock offers potential for higher crop yields and better crop quality, maintaining the competitiveness of US fruit and produce in the global marketplace.

WSDA's fruit tree planting stock certification program builds on the NCPN mission by ensuring Washington certified nurseries provide clean planting stock for cherry and pome fruit orchard production. Modifying our certification program rules will facilitate the use of tissue culture to propagate registered stool beds and allow growers to propagate generation 3 (G3) *Prunus* trees from generation 2 (G2). Adopting international terminology for defining the relationship of registered and certified stock to foundation material clarifies and standardizes our program with the NCPN vision and a nationally recognized model.

Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies:
None

Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):

☐ Negotiated rule making

☐ Pilot rule making

☐ Agency study

☒ Other (describe) Department staff will discuss any proposed amendments with affected stakeholders. Affected stakeholders will also have an opportunity to submit written comments on the proposed rules during the public comment period and will be able to present oral testimony at the public hearing.

How interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication:

(List names, addresses, telephone, fax numbers, and e-mail of persons to contact; describe meetings, other exchanges of information, etc.)

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DATE

January 17, 2017

NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)

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SIGNATURE

TITLE

Assistant Director

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